

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7331

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T BONN 00870

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: FRG REACTION TO U.S. AIR MANPOWER PROPOSAL

REFS: (A) STATE 8358, (B) USNATO 6794, (C) BONN 680

1. WHILE FRG FONOFF MBFR OFFICE DIRECTOR RUTH'S REACTION TO THE U.S. POSITION ON THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS RELATIVELY POSITIVE (REPORTED SEPTTEL), HIS REACTION THUS FAR TO THE U.S. PROPOSAL (REFTEL A) ON AIR MANPOWER HAS BEEN CAUTIOUS AT BEST. IN A DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF ON JANUARY 17, RUTH INDICATED IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE FRG TO AGREE TO THE POSITION ADVANCED BY THE U.S. RUTH IS PRESENTLY DRAFTING SOME QUESTIONS ON THE U.S. PROPOSAL WHICH MOST LIKELY WILL BE RAISED BY SOMEONE FROM THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN THE DEPARTMENT NEXT WEEK.

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2. RUTH OUTLINED BRIEFLY SOME OF THE POINTS TO BE

INCLUDED IN THE GERMAN PRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON. FIRST, THE FRG WILL INDICATE IT AGREES WITH THE "PACKAGE" APPROACH NOW RECOMMENDED BY THE U.S. SECOND, THE FRG ALSO SHARES THE OPINION OF THE U.S. THAT RECATEGORY OF GROUND FORCES COULD LEAD TO THE CODIFICATION IN AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT OF AIR MANPOWER ASYMMETRIES IN FAVOR OF THE EASTERN SIDE AND IS SOMETHING TO BE AVOIDED. THIRD, THE U.S. PROPOSAL GOES CONSIDERABLY BEYOND THE ALLIED POSITION SET FORTH IN C-M (73) 83 FINAL. THE GERMANS BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY TO CONTINUE TO FOCUS WESTERN EFFORTS ON REDUCTIONS LEADING TO A COMMON CEILING IN GROUND FORCES. RUTH REITERATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT BELIEVES A POSSIBLE WAY TO DO THIS WOULD BE TO INCLUDE AIR MANPOWER IN THE COMMON CEILING WITH A SERVICE SUB-CEILING ON GROUND FORCES ONLY (APPROACH 3, REFTEL B).

3. ANOTHER CONCERN VOICED BY RUTH WAS THAT THE 15 PERCENT ACROSS-THE-BOARD PROPOSAL FOR US/SOVIET REDUCTIONS IN PHASE I WOULD INCREASE THE PREJUDICIAL EFFECT ON OVERALL REDUCTIONS. RUTH STRESSED ONCE MORE THAT SUCH AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS WOULD BE A MODEL FOR PHASE II WHICH THE FRG FINDS UNACCEPTABLE. WHEN EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. PRINCIPLE OF VOLUNTARY REDUCTIONS WAS DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO TAKE THIS GERMAN CONCERN INTO ACCOUNT, RUTH REPLIED THAT NEVERTHELESS IT WOULD NOT HINDER SUCH A PREJUDICIAL EFFECT. RUTH INDICATED AN INTEREST IN HOW THE VOLUNTARY REDUCTION PRINCIPLE COULD BE FURTHER DEVELOPED.

4. IN CLOSING THE DISCUSSION ON AIR MANPOWER, RUTH INDICATED HE HAD RECEIVED A REPORT FROM THE FRG NATO DELEGATION WHICH INDICATED THAT BELGIAN REP WILLOT HAD MADE A PRESENTATION IN BRUSSELS WHICH REFLECTED GERMAN THINKING ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS AND OPTION III (REFTEL C). WILLOT SUPPOSEDLY REFERRED TO THE SECRETARY'S REFERENCE DURING THE DECEMBER NAC MEETING TO THE WESTERN NEGOTIATING POSITION AS UNREALISTIC. WILLOT IS SAID TO HAVE INDICATED IT WAS NOT FEASIBLE TO CONSIDER

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INCLUDING AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS IN THE WESTERN POSITION UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE OPTION III QUESTION HAS BEEN DECIDED. THIS BELGIAN VIEW, IF REPORTED CORRECTLY TO BONN, DOVETAILS NICELY WITH THE GERMAN OPINION. CASH

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